

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Mass Intentions for the Week

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2015

5:30 People of Ascension Parish
 7:30 Con & Rose Lynch
 9:00 Viduya Family, Thanksgiving
 10:30 Maria & Evaristo Aponte
 12:00 Peter Buckley, 52nd Anniversary

Monday, December 21, 2015

7:00 Norman Mintz, First Anniversary
 8:30 Meyer & Tenney Families

Tuesday, December 22, 2015

7:00 T.K. Varghese
 8:30 Primo Fineza

Wednesday, December 23, 2015

7:00 Gerard Patrick Lee
 8:30 Laura Abdelghafar

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2015

8:30 T.V. Varghese
 5:30 **Vigil Mass**
 12:00 **Midnight Mass**

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25, 2015

8:00 **All Ascension**
 10:00 **Parishioners**
 12:00 **Living & Deceased**

Saturday, December 26, 2015

8:30 Rose Caruso
 5:30 Zbigniew Solarz

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 27, 2015

8:00 Juan Redoblado
 10:00 People of Ascension Parish
 12:00 Agata & Michelangelo Sberna

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

Ascension Parish is supported by people who place their faith and trust in God.

Sunday, December 14, 2014:	\$6,448.00
Sunday, December 13, 2015:	\$6,431.50
Parish Pay November:	\$3,291.27
Immaculate Conception:	\$1,287.00
Maintenance & Repairs:	\$3,808.00

We thank you very much for your generosity. You always care for and support our Parish programs, ministries and plant maintenance.

Readings for Next Sunday December 27, 2015

Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52



It's often the small things in life that really are so important. The choice of words we say to each other, the way we look at one another, our expressions of affection and so on. The presence of positive words, looks, expressions of affection can make a world of difference in anyone's life. Most of us are fed on the daily bread of routine. We are nourished by our interactions with one another, by a job well done, a meal nicely prepared, a home that is cozy and welcoming.

And so it should really not come as much of a surprise to us that the last Gospel we hear before the feast of Christmas is a story about two women meeting together and having a visit. Mary and Elizabeth greet each other, and "as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting...Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit". God becomes present as two women greet one another. Is this so strange? Doesn't this happen all the time? God is found in the everyday goings on between people. Little things mean a lot.

What do you imagine happened during that time? Probably nothing unusual. Mary and Elizabeth cooked meals, did the dishes, cleaned the house, fetched water, chatted with each other. I suppose that during the last months of Elizabeth's pregnancy she was grateful for the extra help that Mary provided...lots of help with the little things that needed doing. Also, I'm sure that Elizabeth was very thankful for the companionship that Mary brought during those many weeks.

Still some of us don't seem to get it. We keep looking for the big moment when we are finally going to shine. Well, perhaps the big moment has arrived and will continue to arrive each day of our lives as we meet each other in the morning with a kind hello, a caring smile, a welcome hug.

Especially at Christmas, where do we see God best? It is in the simple, loving moments in our everyday life. So, I urge you today, wherever the Christmas season takes you, to be aware, and alert to the presence of Jesus in your midst.

Maybe it will come in watching your family or friends opening presents. If you are in grief at the loss of a beloved friend, or family member, or animal, maybe you will remember how Jesus was often present to you in that beloved one's life, in times of both happiness and struggle. All memories are stored in God's heart, where what is bad is sifted away, while the good lives on forever. We will see these beloved ones again, because of Jesus' great miracle of touching the creation with eternal reunion in God's heart. Believe in the Christmas miracle!

I pray that Christmas joy overwhelms everyone who reads and shares these words!
 Jesus is born! Alleluia!!!

✠ Thank you to **Dena Sedlak**, our Coordinator of First Sacraments, Theresa Carbone our Coordinator of Religious Education, our catechists, and all who helped to make our children's first experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation so beautiful and inspiring. Thanks to the parents and children, too! In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, remember, "Forgiveness is Sweet."

✠ We will be putting up the **Christmas Trees** in our church on **Tuesday, December 22nd**, beginning at 6pm. Parishioners are welcome to come and lend a hand.

We will be **decorating our church** on **Wednesday, December 23rd**, beginning at 6pm. Again, Parishioners are welcome to come and lend a hand.

On both evenings, many hands make for less work for all.

✠ Our **Christmas Mass schedule** has been mailed to all parishioners and is printed in the bulletin. Please keep the schedule handy for ready reference. We remind you of the many ministries and programs offered by Ascension Parish. We look to your generosity, especially at Christmas, to help support the many needs of your parish. Please be as generous to your church as your means allow.

Know that I pray for you every day. Please pray for me, too.
 God Love You!



TRANSFIGURATION ACADEMY

Mark your calendars! Transfiguration Academy's annual Christmas Concert will take place on Tuesday, December 22. Performances will be held at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM in Conlon Hall.



The students, faculty and staff wish everyone a healthy and blessed Christmas. The school and school office will close at 12 noon on Wednesday, December 23 and will remain closed until Monday, January 4 for the Christmas recess.

Transfiguration Academy is located at 10 Bradley Avenue in Bergenfield. For more information or to schedule a tour of the school please call (201)384-3627 or email principal@transfigurationacademy.org. Please visit our website at transfigurationacademy.org and follow us on Facebook.



DECORATING OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Parishioners are invited to help put up Christmas trees in the Church on Tuesday, December 22nd at 6:00pm & decorate the Church on Wednesday, December 23rd at 6:00pm.



Sharing God's Blessings Appeal

Just a reminder for those who made a pledge to the Sharing God's Blessings Appeal for 2015. If you have not fulfilled your pledge please do so. Every fulfilled Pledge Counts! Thank you.



BEGINS ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22ND



Calendar:

Sunday December 20th -- K thru 6th grade from 10:15 am to 11:45 am (SCH)
Monday, December 21st ó No Religious Education
Wednesday, December 23rd ó No Religious Education
Friday, December 25th ó Happy and Holy Christmas to All
Sunday December 27th -- No Religious Education

Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9 am Mass. All children in K to 5th grade are invited to join us. What a great way for families to celebrate Mass together.

No Children's Liturgy of the Word Sunday December 27th. We will resume on Sunday January 3, 2016.

Christmas Blessings



We in the Religious Education Office wish everyone a **Happy, Healthy and Holy Christmas Season**

Volunteers Needed:

- We are in need of Catechists for our 7th and 8th Grade program. The 7th and 8th graders meet on Monday evenings from 7 pm to 8:45 pm, anyone interested is asked to call the Religious Education Office during the week.
- We are in need of Class Parents for ALL GRADES in our Religious Education Program for the 2015-2016 school year. Anyone interested, please call Theresa Carbone our Coordinator of Religious Education at (201) 836-3085.
- Children's Liturgy of the Word Team member. This is a great opportunity for college students or student teachers to gain experience share their faith and work with students in a relaxed atmosphere. Anyone interested please, call the Religious Education office.

Religious Education Office Hours:

Monday ó Wednesday & Friday: 9 am to 4 pm
Monday and Wednesday: 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm
Sunday Mornings: 10 am to 12 Noon
Closed: Thursday & Saturday
Other times by appointment

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Great Food

Church of the Ascension
and
Fr. David Milliken
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Questions? More Info?
See Fr. David

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"To everything there is a season..."

"a time to be healed..."

Rose DeEufemia, Dolores Crowley, Shirley Busby, Ann & Jack Wall, Joseph Gorgone, Patricia Burke, Barbara Santore, Marge Bruno, Jim Keane, Marguerite Morris, Peggy Evans, Donna Van Kleeck, Margaret Polis, Theresa Ruocco, Robert Barratt, Elsa Obera, Jerry Gordon, Marie Oberst, Anthony Triggiano, and those among us who are sick and in need of our prayers.

"a time to serve..."

Cpt. Jack Massingale, U.S. Air Force, Afghanistan
All Men and Women serving in our countries Armed Forces.

"a time for peace..."

President Barack Obama, our National Leaders
and all World Leaders.

...and a time for every purpose under heaven"

Ecclesiastes 3:11



The SANCTUARY CANDLE
burns this week in loving memory of the
Figalora & Sharkey Families



BREAD and WINE this week
are in loving memory of
Luisa & Manuel Garcia



A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

O God, whose Son was born in Bethlehem,
on that wondrous night, lead us to that
same place, where Mary laid her tiny child.

As we look on in wonder and praise, make us
welcome Him and all new life, and care for
His handiwork; the earth, the sky and the sea.

O God, bless us again in Your great love.
We pray for this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

"For this day is born to you a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David."
(Luke 2:11)



December

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2015

O Key of David

Food Pantry Sunday

Children's Liturgy of the Word - 9:00am - Church
Religious Education ó 10:15am ó School
Baptism ó 1:30pm - Church

Monday, December 21, 2015-O Radiant Dawn

Religious Education, Grade 7 ó 7:00pm ó School

Tuesday, December 22, 2015-O King of all the Nations

Woodcrest Center, Rosary ó 2:30pm

Put up Trees in church ó 6:00pm

Wednesday, December 23, 2015-O Emmanuel

Harrison House

NO Religious Education (grade 9) ó 7:00pm ó School

Decorating of church for Christmas ó 6:00pm

Novena ó 7:30pm - Church

Combined Choirs with Instruments ó 8:00pm ó Church



Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, 2015

Parish Offices Closed

One morning Mass 8:30am

Vigil of Christmas Masses:

5:30pm – Children's Choir

12 Midnight Mass – Combined Choir's

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, 2015

Masses: 8:00am, 10:00am & 12 Noon

Parish Offices Closed

Saturday, December 26, 2015

Confessions ó 11:00am ó Church

Holy Family Vigil Mass at 5:30pm

Holy Family Sunday, December 27, 2015

Masses: 8:00am, 10:00am & 12 Noon

NO Children's Liturgy of the Word - 9:00am - Church

NO Religious Education ó 10:15am ó School



KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Ask for religious Christmas stamps at the post office



THE RECTORY & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
& FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH



**FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY
THIS WEEKEND**

During the month of December, we are asking for donations of paper products; including toilet tissue, paper towels, facial tissues and napkins. We are also always in need of personal hygiene items such as toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, disposable razors, shave cream, and soap. **Our pantry staff wishes all of our supporters a very blessed Christmas season!** Of special note, Turkey & other donations from Shop Rite and Fairway Markets. (Please patronize these establishments in order for continued support from our Corporate donors). As the Holiday season continues please note that we will still take donations of Turkeys, Hams, Lasagna etc. for our Christmas meal distribution.



AVAILABILITY

SANCTUARY CANDLE (\$15.), BREAD & WINE (\$40.), AND ALTAR FLOWERS (\$50. each basket) for the week, are available for memorial or special occasions, such as First Communion, Confirmations, Baptisms, Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries. Please stop by or call the rectory office to check availability.

MEMORIALS

“THANK YOU” to those who have contributed to our Memorials Fund. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send your donation to the rectory with the coupon below. When an item is purchased we will notify you which item is in memory of your loved one. If you have any questions, please call Fr. David at the Rectory (201)836-8961. Additional Memorials: (circle appropriate memorial)

- MEMORIAL CANDLES:** \$150/1 Year
\$20/30 Days
- ALTAR BREAD AND WINE** \$40 per week
- ALTAR FLOWERS** \$50 (per basket/per week)
- SANCTUARY CANDLE** \$15 per week

MEMORIAL FUND

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Donation Amt.: _____
 In Memory of: _____
 Date Requested: _____



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& Cremation Service
201-692-0100**



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

You are invited to make a donation toward the Christmas trees, wreaths and flowers which will be used to decorate our church this festive season.

Please print clearly on all requests.

Donation \$15.00 for Each Intention
One intention for each donation will be listed on the Christmas Flower Donations bulletin insert

Please put your donation and intention in the **Christmas Flower Envelope** that you received in the mail or pick one up at doors of church and drop it in the collection basket or in the black mail box outside the rectory door.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

In Memory of: _____
 _____,
 or the Intention of: _____
 Donated by: _____
 Phone: _____



TOYS FOR TOTS



Boulevard Funeral Home will be collecting new unwrapped toys this holiday season for Toys for Tots. Donations can be dropped off at 1151 River Road, New Milford from 9-4 daily. All donations will stay local. Please contact 201-692-0100 with any questions.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION
WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM

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 Nominations accepted until January 10, 2016.
 Winners will be announced February 2016
 to celebrate World Marriage Day.
 Nominate a couple you know today!

END OF BULLETIN
ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINTED BULLETIN

CHURCH NAME: **Church of the Ascension**

CHURCH CITY: **New Milford, NJ**

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PHONE NUMBER: **201-836-8961**

FAX NUMBER: **201-836-5896**

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Serina Sharkey**

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Comments:
